

Message Text

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JERUSALEM FOR GEORGE SHERMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM DESCRIBES HIS CYPRUS TALKS

1. "NEW YORK TIMES" JANUARY 18 CARRIED STORY DATED
ATHENS REPORTING INTERVIEW WITH WALDHEIM ON HIS CYPRUS
TALKS, AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM SAID TONIGHT
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THAT THE DIFFICULT ROAD TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT HAD
REACHED A "TURNING POINT" WITH THE AGREEMENT OF TURKEY
TO MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS IN TWO WEEKS ON THE MAIN
ISSUE IN THE DISPUTE.

"OF COURSE THE SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON THE CHARACTER OF
THE PROPOSALS," MR. WALDHEIM SAID IN AN INTERVIEW IN HIS

HOTEL SUITE HERE, "BUT THE FACT THAT TURKEY HAS AGREED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO MAKE THEM IS ENCOURAGING."

MR. WALDHEIM, WHO ARRIVED HERE AFTER VISITS TO ANKARA AND CYPRUS, IS PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT ALL SIDES IN THE DISPUTE HAVE AGREED TO LET HIM JUDGE IF THE PROPOSALS ARE SUBSTANTIVE ENOUGH TO WARRANT RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS BETWEEN GREEK AND

TURKISH CYPRIOTS.

PREVIOUS TALKS BROKE DOWN WHEN TURKISH NEGOTIATORS FAILED TO RESPOND TO GREEK PROPOSALS.

MR. WALDHEIM SAID THAT ON HIS VISIT TO ANKARA PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT TOLD HIM THAT TURKEY WOULD SUBMIT PROPOSALS ON HOW TO APPORTION THE ISLAND BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND UNDER WHAT KIND OF CONSTITUTION THE ISLAND SHOULD BE GOVERNED.

MR. ECEVIT WILL GIVE THE PROPOSAL TO RAUF DENKTASH, THE LEADER OF THE TURKISH MINORITY ON CYPRUS, AND HE WILL SEND THEM TO MR. WALDHEIM.

MR. WALDHEIM WILL STUDY THEM, SHOW THEM TO "THE GREEK SIDE" AND THEN DECIDE IF THE PROPOSALS PROVIDE A BASIS
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FOR RESUMING THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

"ALL SIDES HAVE AGREED TO LET ME JUDGE THE PROPOSALS" HE SAID. "IF THEY ARE SUBSTANTIVE THERE WILL BE TALKS IN EARLY MARCH."

MR. WALDHEIM SAID THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH MR. ECEVIT THE TURKISH LEADER DID NOT SPELL OUT WHAT PROPOSALS HE WOULD MAKE, BUT ASSURED HIM THAT A SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS PROBLEM WAS THE TOP PRIORITY OF HIS GOVERNMENT.

MR. WALDHEIM THEN WENT TO CYPRUS WHERE HE TALKED WITH MR. DENKTASH AND THE CYPRIOT PRESIDENT, SPYROS KYPRIANOU, WHO AGREED TO HAVE MR. WALDHEIM EVALUATE THE PROPOSALS.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL THEN CAME TO ATHENS AND MET WITH PRIME MINISTER CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS YESTERDAY. HE TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER OF MR. ECEVIT'S PLEDGE TO MAKE CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND AFTER THE MEETING MR. CARAMANLIS SAID, "IT IS NOT ENOUGH THAT THE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE CONCRETE, THEY MUST ALSO BE LOGICAL AND REASONABLE

BEFORE THEY CAN LEAD TO A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT."

BUT BOTH MR. CARAMANLIS AND MR. ECEVIT ARE KNOWN TO
PRIVATELY WELCOME MR. WALDHEIM'S INITIATIVE TO RECONVENE
THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. A SETTLEMENT WORKED OUT BY THE
GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS THEMSELVES WOULD SAVE THE
GREEK AND TURKISH LEADERS FROM CHARGES THAT THEY SOLD

OUT CYPRUS. IN ADDITION, HAVING THE UNITED NATIONS
AS A PEACEBROKER RATHER THAN THE UNITED STATES WOULD
PROTECT THEM FROM CRITICISM THAT THEY SUBMITTED TO
PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON TO REACH A SETTLEMENT.
END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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SALEM FOR GEORGE SHERMAN

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